Duration of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage

†3031. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the persisting demand being raised by the people with regard to increase the duration of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage;

(b) if so, whether Government have discussed the matter with China in this regard;

(c) if so, whether China is agree to increase the duration of pilgrimage; and

(d) if not, the reasons for disagreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

More nuclear tests by India

3032. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain experts have suggested to Government that India should go for more nuclear tests to match with United States; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government stands by its unilateral moratorium on further nuclear explosive tests. India is not engaged in arms competition with any country.

News feature on Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam

3033. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BBC had made a news feature on Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether there has been an outcry against this feature telecast on the 9th July, 2002;

(c) whether there have been objections against it as it hurts the sentiments of devotees;

(d) whether Government have lodged a protest against it; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The film on Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam was part of a six-episode series titled Business Bizarre.

(b) and (c) The series is reported to have received a positive response from viewers. The Government is not aware of any outcry against the feature. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam authorities have formally conveyed their appreciation of the film to the film makers.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Anti-Indian activities in Neighbouring countries

†3034. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that regular training is being provided in countries adjoining India to terrorists in carrying out their terrorist activities against India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c)

Pakistan

Pakistan has established an elaborate infrastructure for the recruitment; indoctrination and training of terrorists on its territories and territories under its control, to support its policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India. Information

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.